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25X

OUTGOING MESSAGE

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE	COI	ACP	TOG	TPC	MRO	DCI	TRI
SCM 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR | DATE-TIME GROUP | CITE: CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF: CIA/OCI/WHIZWH 741224

ROUTING

1		4				11	
2		5		8		12	
3		6		9			

25X1

[redacted]

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-3 DATE: 24 DECEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: LAOS--TROUBLE FLARES AGAIN AT BAN HOUEI SAI

25X1 REF [redacted]

MEN FROM TWO COMPANIES OF ETHNIC LAO THEUNG TROOPS--FORMER NON-COMMUNIST IRREGULARS NOW INTEGRATED INTO THE REGULAR LAO ARMY--OCCUPIED THE MEKONG RIVER BORDER TOWN OF BAN HOUEI SAI IN REMOTE NORTHWESTERN LAOS EARLY THIS MORNING FOR THE SECOND TIME IN LESS THAN THREE MONTHS. [redacted] 25X1X

25X1X [redacted] THE DISGRUNTLED TROOPS HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF THE AIRPORT, THE MAIN MILITARY CAMP, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, AND THE TOWN'S RADIO STATION. THERE HAS BEEN SOME GUNFIRE AND BLOODSHED, BUT ALL AMERICANS ARE REPORTED TO BE SAFE AND UNINJURED.

IN CONTRAST TO THE LEGITIMATE ECONOMIC GRIEVANCES THAT PROMPTED THE EARLIER OCCUPATION OF BAN HOUEI SAI FROM OCTOBER 7-10, THE IRREGULARS' DEMANDS THIS TIME HAVE ASSUMED A DISTINCTLY

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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CLASSIFICATION

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E 2 IMPDET

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

[redacted]

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI TRI

SCM 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR | DATE-TIME GROUP | CITE | MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

POLITICAL CAST WHICH SUGGESTS PATHET LAO INSTIGATION AND INVOLVEMENT. INDEED, THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT MEN FROM A COMPANY OF PATHET LAO TROOPS HAVE JOINED THE FORMER IRREGULARS IN BAN HOUEI SAI. THE REPORTS SEEM PLAUSIBLE SINCE FORCES FROM BOTH SIDES WERE STATIONED AT THE NEARBY CEASE-FIRE DEMARCATION POINT AT BAN POUNG, THE APPARENT STAGING GROUND FOR THE MOVE AGAINST BAN HOUEI SAI. MOREOVER, THE FORCES HAVE THE SAME LAO THEUNG ETHNIC BACKGROUND AND ARE KNOWN TO COEXIST VERY COMPATIBLY AT BAN POUNG. ACTIVIST STUDENTS ARE ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE JOINED DISSIDENT RANKS IN BAN HOUEI SAI.

AT LAST REPORT, THE IRREGULARS HAD REQUESTED "DISCUSSIONS" WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA OR WITH ONE OF HIS TWO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ORDERED THE TOWN TO BE RETAKEN BY FORCE.

THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF DISTURBANCES ELSEWHERE IN LAOS, SUGGESTING THAT THE LATEST BAN HOUEI SAI "UPRISING"--LIKE THE ONE IN OCTOBER-- IS A LOCALIZED AND ISOLATED OCCURRENCE WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE RESOLVED IN FAIRLY SHORT ORDER. E-2 IMPDET.

25X1
25X1A

[redacted]

DIV AND NIO [redacted]

25X1A
25X1

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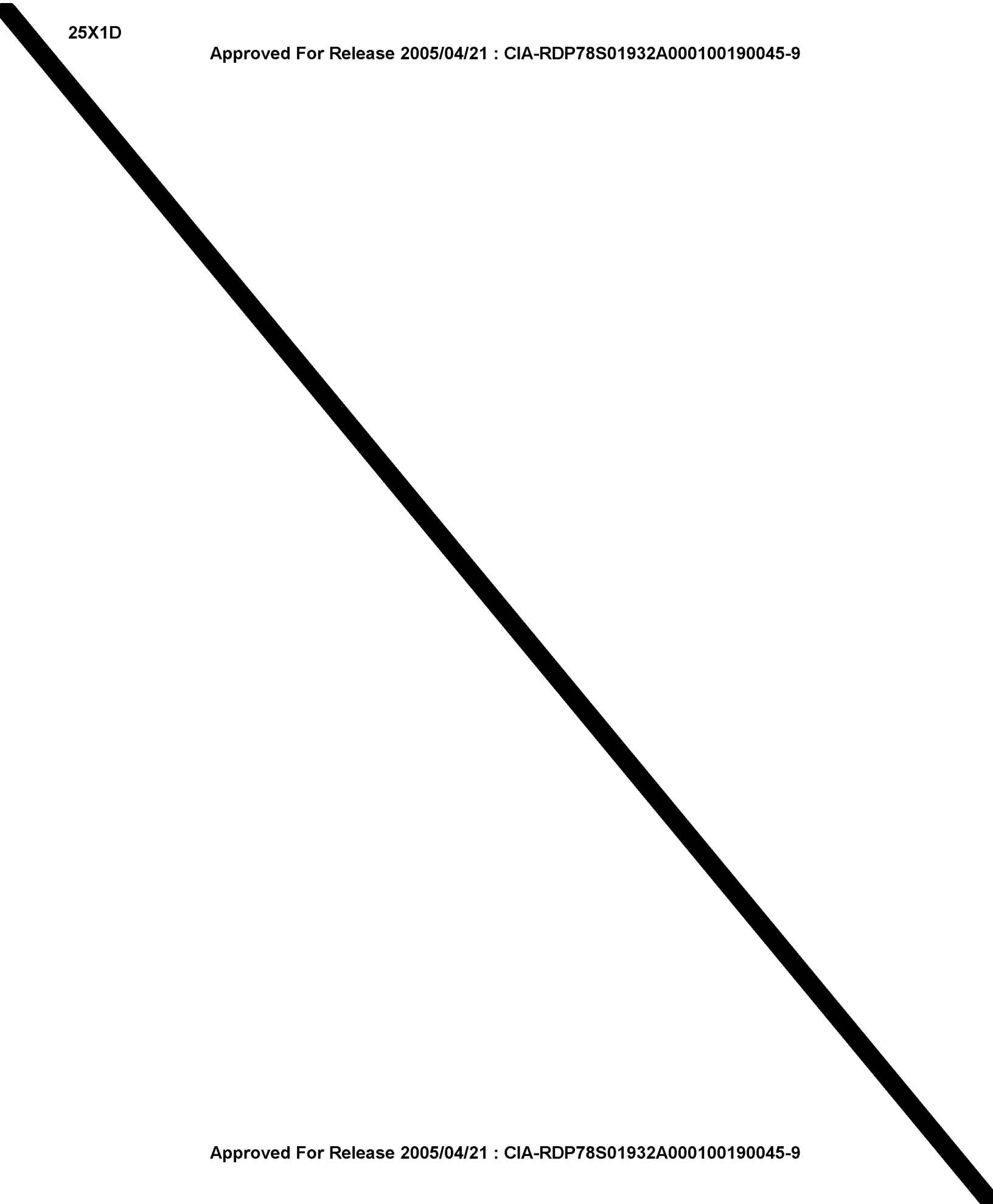

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